



The Knightline

Olney Central College Students & Employees Monthly Newsletter

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OCC grad enjoys working behind the scenes

Few people share their workplace with dinosaurs or get to hold a pre-historic bone while waiting for an elevator, but for Kristin Arlyn those are some of the experiences she enjoys most as marketing coordinator for the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, Texas.

"They're the things that remind you just how incredible it is to work here," she said. "I come into contact with so many interesting people and things. It's fun being able to walk through the non-public areas and see the items close-up that are being taken out of storage or prepped to go out on the floor."

It's a career the former Sumner resident never envisioned as a student at Olney Central College.

"I'd always intended to get at least a bachelor's degree, but after finishing high school, I was still uncertain as to what field of study appealed to me enough to ultimately build a career around," she said. "My two years at OCC provided me with an opportunity to dip my toes into a large variety of academic fields and, through various general core courses, gain a clearer idea of which field I wanted to pursue as I planned to transfer to a four-year university for



Photo Courtesy of Jason Janik/Perot Museum

OCC graduate Kristin Arlyn stands next to an exhibit in the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, Texas. The former Sumner resident serves as the museum's marketing coordinator.

my bachelor's degree."

Arlyn has many fond memories of her time at OCC.

"I enjoyed being on Student Senate as well as spending time and building some lasting friendships with international students," she said.

After completing her associate's

degree in 2002, Arlyn chose to major in speech communications at Eastern Illinois University. It's a decision she made due in part to the classes she took with OCC speech instructor Jim Tucker.

"I've never really been one to shy
See Arlyn, Page 6

Auditions for OCC Theatre's production of 'Annie' Jan. 6-7

The Olney Central College Theatre will hold auditions for "Annie" on Sunday, Jan. 6 and on Monday, Jan. 7 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Auditions for Annie and the orphans will be held between 2 and 3 p.m. on Jan. 6 only. Parts are

available for girls, who are under 5 feet tall and in Grades 4-8.

Audition packets, which include music and rehearsal information, will be available in the Richland County schools.

Students residing outside Richland County may request an audition packet

by calling OCC Theatre Director Ruth Henry at 395-7777, ext. 2408.

Please leave your name, address and telephone number when calling.

All girls will be singing "Tomorrow" during their auditions.

Auditions for adults will begin at 3 p.m. on

Jan. 6 and at 7 p.m. on Jan. 7.

Adults auditioning will be required to give a cold reading from the script and to sing from memory 16 measures from any Broadway musical song.

Performances are scheduled for March 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

GED program helps student reach goals

Sabrina Hollingsworth arrived in Olney with just a duffle bag and the desire to change her life. A year later, the Indiana native has her GED and is enrolled in pre-nursing classes at Olney Central College.

"My life hasn't been easy, but I'm bound and determined to reach my goals," Hollingsworth said. "Earning my GED and going to college is the smartest thing I've ever done for myself and my kids. My future is going to be brighter because of it. Before I got my GED, I was feeling down and ready to give up. The Learning Skills Center at OCC has been a positive force in my life. They have helped me to believe in myself."

Hollingsworth left home at 14 and dropped out of high school two years later, when she got married and had her first child. She had just lost her job and was trying to escape an abusive relationship when she decided



Sabrina Hollingsworth

to relocate to Olney in July 2011. She stayed at the SWAN shelter for three weeks as she worked to build a new life.

Hollingsworth knew it was time to go back to school, and when she heard an ad on the radio for Olney Central College's free GED classes, she enrolled. Hollingsworth completed her GED testing in only four weeks and then spent the remainder of the semester tutoring other students.

"I really enjoyed the GED program," she said.

"The staff goes out of their way to assist you in any way they can. It was a more personal experience than other GED programs I have been in or heard about. They keep your morale up and make sure you have an enjoyable experience. I have never been in a program that assisted you at such a personal level. I wouldn't be as successful in my college courses without the support I received through the Learning Skills Center. They are a really great support group. Even now, I can go to them for advice. They really want you to succeed. If you put in the effort, they are there to back you up."

For Hollingsworth, who began taking college classes at OCC in August, choosing nursing as a major was an easy decision. She had always been close to her grandmother and when she became ill, Hollingsworth served as her caregiver until she passed away in October 2010. The experience con-

vinced Hollingsworth she wanted to care for others who were terminally ill.

"She was an awesome person," Hollingsworth said of her grandmother. "She was my motivation to get my GED and go into hospice care. I think it takes someone special with a rare heart to be with someone when they die. My goal is to be a hospice nurse. I want to be with people in the last transition of their lives. Just because someone is sick doesn't mean they are any less of a person. Someone needs to be there and help them cross over in a loving, caring way. For the family, it is a tragic time and they also need someone who is compassionate to help them through their loss."

Hollingsworth's hard work and determination are paying off. This fall she was selected as one of the recipients of a new scholarship OCC is awarding to GED graduates who want to continue their

See GED, Page 3

Melissa Sager new LSC Resource Specialist

Melissa Sager has joined Olney Central College's Learning Skills Center as its Resource Specialist.

In her new position, Sager will assist students in OCC's adult education program by providing counseling and testing. She also will help learners enroll in classes and keep track of their attendance.

Sager, an OCC graduate, received her bachelor's degree in elementary



Melissa Sager

education and early childhood education from Eastern Illinois University. She taught first grade at East Richland Elementary School for five years and served two years as an art teacher for students in kindergarten through the fifth grade.

Sager resides in Olney with her three children, Alyssa, Hailey and Tara. For the past four years, she has been a Zumba instructor.

"I've just started back in the workforce after being a stay-at-home mom and I'm excited about this opportunity," she said. "I like the idea of working with the GED students. I want to make sure everyone has a positive and successful experi-

ence in the program. It takes a lot of motivation and guts to come back to school. I want to help these students achieve their goals."

Sager said the LSC staff is dedicated to helping students succeed.

"Everyone in the office truly cares about the students," she said. "We will do anything we can to get them through and help them obtain their GEDs."

Sager is currently registering students for spring semester GED classes and she encourages those who need to complete their testing to contact her at 395-7777, ext. 2267. Classes are free and begin Jan. 7.

Program thanks clients for support

OCC's Massage Therapy Program would like to once again thank those who participated in the fall massage clinics.

"We are coming to a close for the fall semester for clinics and we are booked up," said instructor Penny Campbell. "We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Watch for the spring clinics schedule to come out soon."

College closed for Winter Break

Olney Central College will be closed for Winter Break Dec. 19 through Jan. 1.

The college will reopen on Jan. 2 and spring semester classes will begin on Jan. 7.



Massage Therapy students participate in Health Fest

OCC's Massage Therapy students recently participated in the annual Health Fest at Ameren. Instructor Penny Campbell said the students had a good time and the response from Ameren employees was great.

GED

Continued from Page 2
education. Qualified students can receive \$1,000 per semester for two semesters to cover tuition costs.

"I was highly motivated to get the scholarship so I could attend college," Hollingsworth said. "It has been a blessing because, financially, I couldn't afford it otherwise. When you have nothing, and every dime you have goes to pay bills and to take care of your kids, it is like getting a million dollars. I don't know of any other GED program that offers students scholarships for college."

Hollingsworth praised OCC for the help she has received.

"I have met some really awesome people," she said. "I've made a lot of good connections. If it weren't for the GED program, my future wouldn't look as bright. I probably wouldn't be in college, and if I were, I would be struggling."

Hollingsworth encourages others who need to complete their GEDs to contact Olney Central College's Learning Skills Center.

"I've advised several people to come here," she added. "People may think they won't be able to earn their degrees, but if you have the desire and put forth the effort it will happen."

"This program changed my life. There is no reason for anyone to fail. Everything is free. All you have to do is attend. There is no room for excuses. I guarantee if you attend class every day and do the work you will pass. They absolutely won't allow you to fail."

She added, "There are good people out here and they changed my whole outlook on life. It's making my dreams come true. I was homeless and now I have a beautiful two-bedroom home. If I can make it after all

I've been through in my life, anyone can."

OCC will offer free GED test preparation classes from 5 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Jan. 8. They will be immediately followed by the Constitution classes, which meet from 9 to 10 p.m. The classes include a general review of test subjects and the books are free.

Eight-week daytime classes begin Jan. 7 and include math, reading, science, social studies, English and the Constitution.

OCC is encouraging those who haven't completed their GEDs to do so before changes are made to the test in 2014. Students who haven't finished all subject areas by then will have to start over and pay for the test a second time.

To register or for more information, call 395-7777, ext. 2267.

GED students among first to take computerized test

Adult education students at Olney Central College are among the first in the state to take a computerized GED test.

The nine students traveled to Frontier Community College in Fairfield, which is serving as one of only four pilot testing sites.

“This is an opportunity to see how the computerized testing is going to work and to remove any of the kinks before 2014 when all GED testing will be computerized,” said Jessica Parrent, the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Adult Education Transition/Data Technician. “FCC has done a wonderful job getting this set up for everyone.”

Parrent said Jervaise McDaniel, IECC’s Associate Dean of Adult and Continuing Education,

and Cindy Foerster, FCC Adult Education Director, invited the OCC students to participate in the project. Parrent said the experience benefited both OCC’s adult learners and their instructors.

“It is nice for the teachers and the students to get to be on the ground level,” she said. “It is good for the students’ self-esteem. The students are coming back and teaching us what is on the test and how it works.”

OCC students took math, social studies and writing tests while at FCC on Nov. 2.

“We had two students who finished their GEDs because it was the last test they needed,” Parrent said.

GED student Charlie Liston, of Lawrenceville, enjoyed the experience.



GED students from OCC recently took the new computerized GED test at Frontier Community College. They are pictured with FCC Adult Education Director Cindy Foerster.

“I’ve taken other parts of the written test and I liked the computerized testing better,” he said. “I thought it was easier to find information on the test.”

Robert Pinkerton, of Olney, agreed.

“The computerized test gives you more detail on what it is asking you to do,” he said. “It also gives you examples of what it is looking for.”

Pinkerton, who wears glasses, also found it **See Test, Page 9**

Sports Schedule

Women’s Basketball

- Dec. 15 – OCC vs. Illinois Central College, 2 p.m. at home

Spring registration now underway

Are you registered for spring semester classes? Make sure to schedule an appointment before Winter Break.

Just stop by the Student Services Office or call 395-7777.

Spring schedules are available from the Student Services Office or www.iecc.edu.

Spring semester classes begin on Monday, Jan. 7.



Massage Therapy students make donation to Shriners

The OCC Massage Therapy students presented a \$250 donation to the Olney Shriners. The funds will be used to purchase toys for patients at the Shriners’ Hospital for Children in St. Louis. Pictured are seated, from left, Merissa Smashey, Breanna Roush, Sara Buckels, Amanda Parker and Kelsie Bare; and back row, Shriners Jon Racklin, Joe Hunt and Bill Jennings, Instructor Penny Campbell, Colleen Yocum, Samantha Blakney, Jennifer Schackmann, Nikki Rinard, Carrie Nesler, Josh Burns and Program Assistant Michelle Monroe.

Begin a new hobby with OCC Quilting Class

Searching for a new hobby or a way to pass the dreary winter months, join Olney Central College's machine quilting classes.

During the 16-week spring semester courses, long-time quilter Judith Diver will teach machine piecing quilt techniques and will show students how to put the blocks together to form their quilts. Topics covered include rotary cutting, binding, borders and seams. Classes are available for both beginning and experienced quilters who want to learn more about this popular hobby.

Laurie Rist, of Olney, had been making apparel for several years, when she decided to try her hand at quilting. In the past three years, she has completed three projects including a beautiful Christmas tree quilt she finished this fall.

"Quilting is something I had never done before, but I wanted to try," she said. "The wonderful thing about this class is that you don't have to be an expert. We have people who have never sewn a stitch before who have brought in their brand new sewing machines. It is a great way to get started. It looks hard, but it isn't once you get started. Really, you're just sewing straight lines."

Diver said beginning students typically start with simple projects such as small lap-sized quilts. As their skills progress, students move on to sampler blocks for larger quilts.

Rist likes working at her own pace and getting input from Diver, who has been quilting for 35 years.

"Judith is always here to



Above, Laurie Rist, right, and instructor Judith Diver display the Christmas tree quilt Rist completed this fall. Rist has been taking quilting classes at OCC for the past three years and her second quilt is resting on the table. At right, is the first quilt Rist created in the beginning quilting class.

help you," Rist added. "She is an excellent teacher."

Rist also enjoys the opportunity to meet other quilters. The classes allow participants to share fabrics and patterns as well as socialize while they work.

"We have a really good time," she said. "It's not like we're sitting in a lecture. This is very hands-on."

Rist finds sewing a relaxing hobby and says



she spends 10 to 15 hours a week working on projects at home.

OCC is currently registering students for its spring quilting classes. HEC 2299 Independent Study in Home and Institutional Services (Beginning Machine Pieces/Quilting) will meet from 6 to 8:50 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 8.

Those who have quilting

experience can enroll in HEC 2299 Independent Study in Home and Institutional Services (Advanced Machine Pieces/Quilting), which will meet from 6 to 8:50 p.m. on Thursdays starting Jan. 10. Students will need to bring their own sewing machines and fabrics to class.

To register for the class, call the Student Services Office at 395-7777.

Community Band to begin seventh season

Olney Central College will host the OCC Community Band, with its first meeting to be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 8 in Room 216 at Olney Central College.

The band is directed by Suzanne Downes, Director of Bands at OCC.

Membership over the years has included a diverse mix of varying musical experiences, ages and backgrounds.

"This band was originally started as a way to provide an opportunity for people who had not played in

several years to play again – maybe those who were in their high school or college band but hadn't played since," said Downes. "The band includes several members who fit that definition, as well as current high school and college students who want to add to their musical experiences, area music teachers and many who play in churches or other venues and enjoy having another outlet to make music."

The OCC Community Band rehearses on Tuesday nights from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and will perform on

Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

"There will be new faces in the band this year, as well as returning members – it is always exciting to come to the first meeting and meet the new group each year," Downes stated. "The goal of this band is to bring together those who enjoy making music, and to have fun doing it."

For further information, please contact Downes via e-mail at downess@iecc.edu or at 395-7777, ext. 2251.

Arlyn

Continued from Page 1 away from public speaking, so the idea of speaking in front of a class was not daunting, but the actual theories of communication and tricks for making public address stronger and more effective were things that really grabbed at me in those classes and helped me decide to gravitate toward a career that concentrated on the power of the spoken and written word."

Arlyn, who graduated from the former Olney Christian Academy, said OCC provided an excellent transition to college and prepared her well for her classes at EIU.

"Coming from a small school and town, it was perfect for me," she said. "I liked the smaller classes and the fact the instructors knew our names. It was a tremendous stepping stone for me."

She added, "When I went to Eastern, I was able to reach back to what I had learned at OCC. I was able to put to use the skills I had gained and build upon them."

Arlyn received her bachelor's degree from EIU in 2004, but was still search-

ing for a specific career path when an advisor suggested theatre administration.

"While at OCC, I loved performing in the fall comedies and spring musicals. I'm borderline tone deaf, so I still appreciate Director Ruth Henry for finding ways to use me in the musicals in such a way that I hope I avoided embarrassing both her and my fellow cast members," she said.

In 2006, Arlyn enrolled at Indiana University in Bloomington to pursue a master's degree in Arts Administration.

"It was a very broad-reaching program and included courses in a number of areas including fund-raising and museum management," she said.

To complete the four-semester program, Arlyn had to serve a full-time internship for a non-profit group. Since her grandparents lived in Dallas and she knew she could stay with them, she contacted the Museum of Nature & Science, which placed her in the Marketing Department in 2008.

"I loved going to museums when I was younger,"

she said. "I grew up taking trips with my Brownie troop to the Arch in St. Louis and the Children's Museum in Indianapolis; however, I never gave much consideration to working in one. But, it became exactly where I was supposed to be."

After completing her internship, Arlyn relocated to her husband Damian's home state of Oregon, and soon began looking for a full-time job in her field. Having difficulty finding open arts administration positions there, she contacted her former supervisor back in Dallas about possible openings in the museum's marketing department and was soon hired for her current position.

Arlyn's responsibilities have ranged from project managing and editing the museum's newsletters and fliers to overseeing marketing volunteers and maintaining the department's archives.

For Arlyn, this is an especially exciting time as the museum opened its new \$185 million facility on December 1.

"Originally, there were three museums – the

Dallas Museum of Natural History, the Science Place and the Dallas Children's Museum," Arlyn said. "They merged in 2006 with the expectation of ultimately moving into a new museum facility."

The new museum will cater to visitors of all ages and will feature exhibits focusing on science, technology, engineering and math.

"The way the new museum is designed the exhibits will be accessible and compelling to all ages," Arlyn said. "It will be as interesting to my 2-year-old niece as it is to me. I'm very happy to be a part of that."

Arlyn credits OCC with helping her to find such a rewarding career.

"I would recommend OCC because it can be both a great stepping stone for moving on to a four-year university to complete an additional degree or it can serve as a springboard for those looking for a more immediate career path with an associate's degree," she said. "It's a good fit for everyone."

Arlyn is the daughter of Terry and Kathy Cotterell of Sumner.

Community Chorus Holiday Concert and Farewell

Dear OCC Faculty, Staff, and Friends,

On December 11 at 7 p.m. the OCC Community Chorus presents its annual Holiday Concert at Immanuel United Methodist Church. This season's performance features Handel's *Messiah* with guest vocal soloists and instrumentalists from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and the Evansville Philharmonic. The event also features performances by the OCC Concert Choir and a community sing-along of favorite hymns and holiday carols, organ music by Hillary Doerries, and the Bell Choir of Trinity Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church. The concert is free and open to the public and pre-concert music begins 20 minutes prior to the performance.



It is with a heavy heart that I also announce that the Holiday Concert is my final performance with the OCC choral ensembles. I recently accepted a position in the music department of the University of Notre Dame as a Postdoctoral Fellow in multi-media performance and childrens' choral conducting for master's and doctoral students. Hillary and I are moved by the generosity of the faculty and staff of OCC who welcomed us into the life of the college and greater community.

With the vision and unwavering support of Suzanne Downes, the music department has grown and strengthened its academic, performance, and community outreach opportunities over the past two years. The level of music performed by the Concert Choir recently reached a new level with the experimental works of minimalist composers and serves as a model for middle and high school choruses alike, the Community Chorus now tackles oratorio literature, and our students envision and strive for careers that balance performance with music education. With support from the OCC Foundation, the music and fine arts departments developed two new websites that bring our performances, exhibitions, and academic opportunities to a broader audience and update our resources to the 21st century (occmusic.org and occarts.org).

I consider it a privilege to have worked at Olney Central College. The faculty and students here have become family to Hillary and me. Together we struggled with tough music, celebrated college acceptances, traveled to Cleveland to hear one of this nation's greatest orchestras, constructed haunted houses that amuse and terrify, ran in the Heart Walk, and shared in the personal tragedies and exciting victories of so many over the past two years. We will never forget our time in Olney and look forward to hearing of future successes.

I leave Olney Central College filled with gratitude and with great expectations for a strong and musical future.

Sincerely,

Mark Doerries

Future Teachers Club Trip

The OCC Future Teachers Club visited McKendree University on Nov. 1. The students met with the advisor for education majors and toured the campus. Those attending included, from left, Josh Corry, Libby Eastin, Rachael Inboden, Julie Hill and Emma Boehl. They were accompanied by club advisor Carmen Jones.



OCC Foundation Valentine Benefit to be held Feb. 16

Enjoy a special evening with your sweetheart and support the Olney Central College Foundation by attending its Valentine Benefit on Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Olde Tyme Steakhaus in Olney.

The event will run from 6 to 11 p.m. and include hors d'oeuvres and an auction.

The Steve Greenwell Trio featuring Darci Castellano will perform.

Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased by contacting Kathy Slichenmyer at 395-7777, ext. 2003.

Tickets also are available at local banking institutions or may be obtained from any OCC Foundation Board member.

Winter Weather Policy

It is OCC's policy to remain open unless the weather makes it too hazardous to do so. When the safety of students and staff is threatened due to inclement weather or other emergencies, OCC will be closed or classes canceled or delayed.

Administration will attempt to notify media outlets prior to the 6 a.m. news on the day of the closing.

Don't assume that if the elementary and high schools close, OCC will be closed as well. If no announcement is made, classes will meet as usual.

Closure of day classes does not necessarily mean that evening classes will be canceled.

Announcements regarding evening classes will be made prior to 4 p.m., if at all possible.

The following radio and television stations will be notified of

any cancellations or delays:

- WVLN-AM and WSEI-FM in Olney

- WIKK in Newton

- WAKO in Lawrenceville

- WFIW-AM and -FM in

Fairfield

- WNOI-FM in Flora

- WSJD in Mt. Carmel

- WCRC in Effingham

- WTWO and WTHI in Terre

Haute, Ind.

- WEHT, WFIE and WTVW in

Evansville, Ind.

Closings also will be announced on the following websites:

- www.iecc.edu

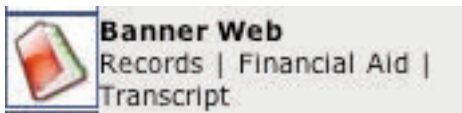
- www.weatherclosings.com

Closings also are announced through IECC Alerts. Log onto Entrata and click on the alerts link to activate an account.

If you have already created an account, you may want to log on to ensure it is still active.

ONLINE PAYMENT

Step 1: Log into your Entrata account with your username and password. Click on the Banner Web icon at the right-hand side of your screen.



Step 2: Click on Pay Tuition, Fees, and Other Charges Online — Credit Card to make your online Payment.

Student Records

Account by Term
Account Summary
Account Summary by Term
Degree Evaluation
Final Grades by Term
Holds on Your Account
Payments - Pay Tuition, Fees, and Other Charges Online - Credit Card
Payment History and Statement
Select Tax Year
Student Information
Tax Notification
Transcript Unofficial

RELEASE: 7.5

If you encounter problems with making your online payment, please contact the IECC HelpDesk at 618-395-5299 or toll-free 1-866-529-4322, ext. 4357.

OCC emergency alerts

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges has contracted with e2Campus to provide alert notification services.

The system will notify students and employees of campus emergencies and closures by e-mail and/or cell phone text message. Log onto Entrata and click on the alerts link to activate an account.

IECC Alerts is an opt-in service. While there is no direct cost for signing up for the service, you may be charged a text message fee by your cell phone provider.

Please check your cell phone

plan to understand the costs you may incur using the service.

The system will be used to send text messages related to

campus emergencies, weather-related closures, test messages and notifications when accounts are about to expire.

If you do not have an Entrata account, please contact the Records Office at 395-7777.



LSC offers students free tutoring

Need help bringing up a grade in one of your classes? The Learning Skills Center offers free tutoring in any subject taught at OCC.

Study guides and videos are available in several subjects.

If you have any special learn-

ing needs, come and see the LSC staff.

They will be glad to provide suggestions, help and/or accommodations.

The LSC is located in the back of the Anderson Library in Conference Room 4.



Operation Christmas Child

Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Carmen Jones is pictured with the 52 shoe boxes members filled with toys and other items for Operation Christmas Child. This is the eighth year PTK has participated in the project, which is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. The program will distribute the boxes to children around the world.

Massage Therapy donation

OCC's Massage Therapy students recently presented a \$250 donation to One Hope United. The non-profit child welfare agency will use the funds to enhance Christmas for the youngsters it serves. Pictured are front row, from left, Sara Buckels, Tawnya Hackler, of One Hope United, instructor Penny Campbell, Amanda Parker, Merissa Smashey, Nikki Rinard and Program Assistant Michelle Monroe; and back row, Josh Burns, Breanna Roush, Kelsie Bare, Samantha Blakney, Jennifer Schackmann and Colleen Yocum.



Test

Continued from Page 4

easier to read the questions on the brightly lit computer screen.

"My computer skills are not good, but if I had a preference, taking the computerized test would be the way to go," he added.

Parrent said one of the biggest advantages of the computerized testing is that students can receive their scores much faster.

"You get the results right away," she said. "All of the students, except those who were taking the writing exam, knew that day if they passed. With the old test, it could take two weeks for the students to get their results. Even with the writing test, students know in two days if they have passed."

Pinkerton liked the quick turnaround.

"I love being able to get the results that day and not having to worry if I passed," he said. "When you're waiting several days, you're thinking about the test and it's always in the back of your mind. It's hard to focus on other things when you're still concentrating on that one test. I think it's wonderful getting the results that fast."

Parrent urges students who have started their GED testing to complete it before changes are made in 2014.

"Students only have three semesters left to finish," Parrent said. "If they have started the test and they don't finish it, they will have to start over."

OCC's Learning Skills Center is currently registering students for its spring semester GED classes, which begin Jan. 7. Parrent said OCC offers free day, evening and online classes to help students prepare for the GED exams. Vouchers are available to help students pay for the GED testing fees.

A transition course also is offered to assist students as they move into the workforce or pursue a college education. Scholarships are available for qualified GED graduates who wish to enroll at OCC.

For more information, call Melissa Sager at 395-7777, ext. 2267.

Parrent new Adult Education Transition/Data Technician

Jessica Parrent will be assisting GED students as Illinois Eastern Community College's new Adult Education Transition/Data Technician.

Parrent, who previously served as the Learning Skills Center Resource Specialist at Olney Central College, will now work with GED students as they move on to college or prepare to enter the workforce. She will help students with their financial aid needs, assist them in selecting classes and work with them to improve their study skills.

"Many of these students are the first person in their families to earn their GED or go to college and they need a little help overcoming those obstacles," she said.

Parrent also will guide students as they explore career opportunities and identify those that best fit their needs and interests. She will provide support to adult education students not only at OCC, but Frontier Community, Lincoln Trail and Wabash Valley colleges as well.

"This is a great job to have," Parrent said. "I get



Jessica Parrent

to see the students grow and to give them the extra boost they need. I really like serving students and helping them to succeed. I

like seeing them get excited about their futures. Many of them have had a hard time in school. I love to see their attitudes change as they get excited about college and realize that it is an opportunity that is available to them."

Parrent has been employed with the IECC District for four years. She completed her associate's degree at Lincoln Trail College and earned her bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University. She will receive her master's degree from Liberty University in January.



OCC Future Teachers Club members Publicist Rachael Inboden and President Julie Hill pass out cookies and information about the organization to fellow students.

Future Teachers Club seeking new members

OCC's Future Teachers Club is for anyone interested in a major related to education. These include elementary education, secondary education, school administration and early childhood education.

Through the club, students gain additional resources and knowledge related to the field of education. They can participate in college visits and meet with advisors about education requirements. There are opportunities to job shadow, observe classroom instruction and hear from guest speakers in the field.

The club also allows students to interact and have fun with fellow education majors.

To learn more, contact Advisor Carmen Jones at 395-7777, ext. 2130.

OCC Baseball Camp Dec. 29

Britton's Bullpen and Olney Central College Baseball will host a Christmas Baseball Camp on Saturday, Dec. 29 for children ages 6 to 12 years old.

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at Britton's Bullpen, 1809 S. Whittle Ave., in Olney. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. and the cost is \$50 per player.

Phil Britton will be joined by

OCC Baseball Coach Dennis Conley and OCC staff and players, who will be instructing participants in hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and base running fundamentals.

Parents are welcome to stay during the camp.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Britton at 879-2200 or Coach Conley at work at 395-7777, ext. 2131, or at 843-0333.

DON'T FORGET
Fill out your FAFSA
for 2013-2014!

Did you know you can complete the FAFSA as early as January 1, 2013 for the 2013-2014 school year? Even if you haven't filed your taxes, just check "I have not yet completed my return" and estimate your tax information.

Don't lose out on valuable State of Illinois Grant \$\$\$. File early!

www.fafsa.ed.gov



Karate students attend tournament

Students in the Olney Central College Karate classes recently competed in the Evansville Pro-Am in Evansville, Indiana. The students competed against some fierce competitors from some very high ranked schools. Sensei Charles Mick said he is extremely proud of all of his students who attended and participated. Students who competed are front row, from left, Kianna Sharp, Laynee Sanders, Kaden Sanders, Breena Mick, Morgan Dardeen and Dakota Pierce; and back row, Master Instructor Charles Mick Jr., Tim Howe, Pat Allin, Trygve Butler and Senior Instructor Steve Amater.

Nursing applicants must complete TEAS-V® exam

Students wishing to apply to the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Associate Degree Nursing and Practical Nursing Certificate programs for Fall 2013 must take the Test of Essential Academic Skills Version 5 (TEAS-V®) exam to be considered for acceptance into the program. **Seats available for testing are limited; therefore, registration is recommended as soon as possible.**

The exam may be taken twice between Feb. 16, 2012 and Feb. 15, 2013 for the ADN program and April 16, 2012 through April 15, 2013 for the PNC program. In order to be ranked, students must have an adjusted individual test score at the proficient level or higher. Students who have an adjusted individual test score at the

developmental or basic level will not be considered for admission.

Information about the exam is available at www.atitesting.com. Study manuals are available in each college library. TEAS-V® Test Prep Courses are also being offered at Olney Central College and Wabash Valley College in January.

For more information, contact OCC Nursing Program Advisor Linda Horn at 395-7777, ext. 2246 or go to www.iecc.edu/nursing and click on "TEAS Testing" for a list of scheduled testing dates and sites. Students may test at any of the four IECC colleges - Frontier Community, Lincoln Trail, Olney Central and Wabash Valley - regardless of which college site they plan to attend.

OCC offers spring cake and cupcake decorating class

OCC is offering a beginning cake and cupcake decorating class from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the following dates: Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19 and Feb. 26 at

the University of Illinois Extension Office at 306 S. Fair St. in Olney. The cost is \$20 for the class.

Call 395-7777 to register.

Follow OCC on Facebook

Like OCC on Facebook to keep up with the latest happenings on campus. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/olneycentralcollege.

Lost and found items

If you have lost an item, please check with the switchboard in the Student Services Office.

Keep vehicles locked

Students utilizing the OCC parking lots are advised to keep their vehicles locked when unattended.

Knightline issues

Current and past issues of the Knightline newsletter may be downloaded by visiting the OCC website at www.iecc.edu/occ.

Happy Birthday To:

December

- 2 David Casstevens
- 8 Elaine Brainard
- 9 Leslie Slankard
- 13 Peggy King
- 16 Kristi Urfer
- 17 Donna Rude
- 20 Vicky Lemons - FCC
- 21 Michelle Higgason
- 21 Clint Burris
- 23 Deborah Hunley

Knightline Information

Please submit information for the January Knightline to Deanna Ratts by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 3.

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